



WING BEAT NEWS



REGION 2—SACRAMENTO VALLEY/CENTRAL SIERRA COUNTIES

Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Solano, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra



Summer 2000

DOVE HUNTING

By Dale Whitmore

Free Subscription
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Mourning doves are the most abundant dove in North America and the most widely hunted and harvested game bird. Hunting season for the migratory dove is set annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and approved by the California Fish and Game Commission in early August. *In California the **PROPOSED** Dove Season opens the first day of September and runs for 15 consecutive days (Friday Sept. 1 thru. Friday Sept. 15, 1999). The **PROPOSED** late season opens again the second weekend of November for 45 consecutive days (11-11-2000 to 12-25-2000). The **PROPOSED** bag limits and shooting hours will be 10 per day, 20 in possession from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.*

Doves are typically hunted near harvested grain fields such as wheat, barley, safflower or sunflowers. Doves prefer to feed on bare or nearly bare ground so a mowed, weed field can be attractive. Water sources such as canals, and ponds can also be good places to hunt. **Several wildlife areas have utilized Upland Game Bird Stamp funds to plant safflower and sunflower to improve dove habitat and hunting.** It is illegal to scatter grain or other seed in a field which is hunted.

Based on spring coo call count surveys conducted by Department of Fish and Game biologists each spring, Breeding estimates are 34% higher than last year and 48% above the 10 year average. The well spaced spring rains will likely create optimum conditions for breeding doves, quail and wild turkeys. This could be the best dove hunt in many years.

The following is a list of public lands where doves are often found. Call the phone number for additional information and a map. It is recommended that a trip to one of these areas before dove season will let you know where the habitat and birds are located. **There is no charge for hunting any of the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Areas during the early dove season. There is a fee charged on the Type A areas when the waterfowl season begins.**

PLACES TO HUNT (Sa/Su =safflower/sunflower plots planted on the wildlife areas; N,S,E,W = directions)

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres), 25 miles east of Red Bluff on Highway 36 to Plum Creek Road; or east on Hogsback Road. Doves found along ridges, Hogsback Road, Meeker and Myers Ponds and various stock ponds. Call DFG at (530) 597-2201.

Black Butte Reservoir (8000 acres) - 8 miles west of Orland on County Road 200 (Newville Road). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (530) 865-4781.

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area - Type A area - Little Dry Creek Unit, 11 miles west of Gridley on Gridley Colusa Hwy and turn right at the wildlife area entrance to the self-registration check station. **Su/Sa S and NE of parking lot 3.** Howard Slough Unit, 11 miles west of Highway 99 on Highway 162 and turn right on ZZ Road for 1 mile to the self-registration check station. **Su/Sa NE of parking lots 1 and 2.** Llano Seco Unit, 13 miles west of Hwy 99 and turn right on Z Road/7 Mile Road for 7 miles to the self-registration check station on the left. **Su/Sa between parking lots 1 and 2 and a plot NE of parking lot 2.** Entry for late season dove hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., controlled by waterfowl permit regulations. Call (530) 982-2169 for more info.

Oroville Wildlife Area (10,000 acres) - Type C area - West of Oroville on Highway 162, **Several Sa/Su plots were planted around the Thermolito Afterbay,** (530) 538-2236.

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) - Type C area - East of Marysville on Highway 20 about 18 miles and turn right on Smartville Road for 1 mile. **3X the amount of Sa/Su planted this year. Sa/Su planted along Pittman Road, N of Spenceville Road, both sides of Waldo Road, one plot along Smartville Road, and N/S of Hammonton Road on the detached wildlife area parcel.** Last season's opening day average was 8 doves per hunter.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (9200 acres) - Type A area - 10 miles east of Live Oak on Pennington and Almond Orchard Roads, (530) 846-3315. **Hunting is good near several safflower and sunflower plots and in abandoned orchards. For early dove season, sign in at the self-registration booth located at Pennington and Rutherford roads where maps are available with information on which parking lots have Sa/Su plots located near them.** Entry for late season dove hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., is controlled by waterfowl permit regulations.

Butte Slough Wildlife Area (178 acres) - Type C area - 10 miles west of Yuba City on Highway 20 to the Sutter Bypass Bridge. Turn right on West Butte Road for 3.8 miles and turn left on the unnamed gravel road. One mile to the parking lot. **Safflower planted.** DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. **This wildlife area may be closed to hunting this year. The State Reclamation Board (property owner) will make that decision on July 21 in Sacramento. If you want more information call Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 7 3-50684**

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (3766 acres) - Type C area - 10 miles west of Yuba City via Highway 20 or Franklin Road or Oswald Road or Highway 113. Look for the privately owned safflower fields adjacent to the Sutter Bypass Levee. You must stay on the Sutter Bypass Levee to hunt doves. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Feather River Wildlife Area (2200 acres in 5 separate properties) - Type C areas - 10-15 miles south of Yuba City and Marysville. **Abbott Lake and the O'Connor Lakes Units** are south of Yuba City on Garden Highway at the end of Star Bend Road. **Sa/Su at O'Connor Lakes. The Nelson Slough Unit** is under the Highway 99 Bridge near Nicolaus. **Many Sa/Su plots were planted.** The **Star Bend and Lake of the Woods Units** are south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard and accessible from the Star Bend Fishing Access. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (2,357 acres) - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road and Dolan Harding Road, DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Dept. of Parks and Recreation (530) 885-4527/988-0205.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (3,700 acres) - 3 miles east of Davis and 4 miles west of West Sacramento of Interstate 80. From east bound I-80 take East Chiles Road exit and travel east 1/4 mile to the west levee access. From west bound I-80, take Frontage Road exit immediately west to the west end of the Yolo Causeway, turn right at the stop sign and head south under freeway to west levee access. **Safflower planted near parking lots F and G. Large fields of Sa are being grown adjacent to the wildlife area. You must stay within on the wildlife area to hunt doves.** DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2900 or (530) 757-2461.

White Slough Wildlife Area (880 acres) - Seven miles west of Lodi.. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

New Hogan Lake (600 acres) - 30 miles east of Stockton. Corps of Engineers (209) 772-1343.

New Melones Lake (25,000 acres) - 25 miles east of Oakdale. Bureau of Reclamation (209) 536-9094

COASTAL AREA - Dove hunting in the north and central portions of the Central Coast Region is generally fair because cold weather before the Sept. 1 opener sends many doves south. If we are lucky and do not have the cold period, however, dove hunting can be good to excellent.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acres of DFG land) and **Cache Creek Management Area** (70,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo, and Colusa Counties - From Williams on I-5, go west about 33 miles on Highway 20 to the parking lot on the south side of the highway. This parking lot is also about 8 miles east of Clearlake Oaks. DFG at (707) 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (4,990 acres of DFG land) and **Indian Valley Management Area** (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties - About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 turn north on Walker Ridge Road. DFG at (707) 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (60,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties - Access from Ukiah (about 8-10 miles): Highway 101 to Talmadge Road to East Side Road to Mill Creek Road to the Recreation Area. Access from Lakeport: Take 11th St. exit from Highway 29 west to Scotts Valley Road, then left on Riggs Road to Scotts Creek Road and the Recreation Area. BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

Mendocino National Forest - U.S. Forest Service at (530) 934-3316.

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Wingo and Huichica Units - Six miles south of Sonoma - Wingo Unit is on Millerex Road and the Huichica Creek Unit is on Buchli Station Road. Call DFG at (707) 944-5500.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

A. The following wildlife areas will be open to dove hunting throughout the legal season without reservation or quota. Sign in at the self-registration booth. The number of hunters to each area will not be regulated - Little Panoche Reservoir, San Luis Reservoir, Gadwall Unit, Upper and Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas.

B. The following San Joaquin Valley wildlife areas have a quota or drawing:

Los Banos Wildlife Area will have two designated hunt areas on opening day, September 1, with a total hunter capacity of 50 for each area. The remainder of the area will be open to provide hunting for nonreservation hunters. Total capacity of the area will be 300 hunters. The area will remain open for birding,

sightseeing, fishing, frogging, and dog training. However, camping will be restricted to the main parking lot Thursday, August 31. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. The hunt is as follows: Hunt N: Friday, September 1.

Salt Slough Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area will be divided into three sections (northern, center and southern section) with reservations being issued for all three sections for September 1. One-half of the 120 hunters allowed will be reservation holders and their guest, with the balance of the quota available for nonreservation hunters. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. The hunt is as follows: Hunt O: Friday, September 1.

China Island Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area. Reservations are not issued or required for September 1. Quota for dove hunting will be 300 hunters.

O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area will be limited to 75 hunters on September 1, with all permits issued on a first-come, first-serve basis that morning at the parking lot. Refills will be allowed as persons leave the area. The area will be open everyday during the September dove season.

Volta Wildlife Area will be closed to all dove hunting.

Dos Amigos Wildlife Area is located about nine miles south of Los Banos adjacent to the California Aqueduct. The area encompasses about 115 acres, with 25 acres of sunflower and 25 acres of wheat grown specifically for doves. Two hunts are scheduled for opening day (September 1): one-half hour before sunrise to noon and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. After opening day, the entire area will be open to dove hunting. These hunts can accommodate 50 hunters, 25 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. The hunts are as follows: Hunt K: Friday, September 1, morning; Hunt L: Friday, September 1, afternoon.

For maps or a San Joaquin Valley Wing Beat News subscription with info about these lands and other hunts, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

How to Apply for the San Joaquin Valley Dove Hunts

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing. Applications may include up to three hunters applying as a party. Applications may not include more than 2 adults and one junior or one adult and two junior hunters. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and your guest(s): (1) hunt area (i.e. Dos Amigos, morning [K]), (2) name, (3) address, (4) daytime and evening telephone, (5) 2000-2001 hunting license number and (6) if you have a mobility impairment and need special accommodations.

Hunters may only apply once, either as an applicant or as a guest for each area and hunt period. Applying for the same hunt area and period more than once will disqualify you from the drawing. Please make your selection(s) carefully. Changes cannot be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to: **San Joaquin Valley Dove Hunts, DFG, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710.**

Applications must be received by Friday, August 11, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Only successful applicants will be notified and supplied with additional information about their hunt. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). An upland game bird stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders.

***** Note: Cosumnes River Preserve Family Dove Hunt south of Sacramento will not be held this year. See the many other opportunities listed above.

Free Wildlife Area Map Packets

Free maps for the following public lands are available at
1) Dept. of Fish and Game, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA95670, 2) DFG Licenses, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 or by calling (530) 743-5068, mention free maps and leave your mailing address on the recorder. The following maps are available as a packet: White Slough WA - San Joaquin County, New Hogan Lake - Calaveras County, Gray Lodge and Oroville WA's - Butte County, Putah Creek WA - Solano County, Indian Valley WA - Colusa/Lake Counties, Black Butte Lake - Tehama/Glenn Counties, Abbott/O'Connor Lakes Units - Sutter County, Nelson Slough Unit - Sutter County, Sacramento Bypass WA - Sacramento County, Lake of the Woods and Daugherty Hill WA's - Yuba County, Sutter Bypass WA - Sutter County, Spenceville WA - Yuba/Nevada Counties, Llano Seco, Howard Slough and Little Dry Creek Units of the Upper Butte Basin WA in Butte/Glenn Counties, Delevan, Sacramento, Colusa and Sutter NWR's in the Sacramento Valley, Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA near Vallejo, Sacramento Valley Waterfowl Area Map, and the Grizzly Island WA - Solano County. Also included are habitat projects such as conservation easements, mourning dove nest cones, rockpiles/brushpiles, wood duck and bluebird box plans.



Implemented in 1993, the Game Bird Heritage Program provides expanded upland game bird hunting opportunities through upland habitat enhancement, special hunts, and public outreach projects and programs. Funds to support these programs are generated through the sale of the upland game bird stamp required to hunt doves, quail, grouse, chukar, pheasants, wild turkey, jacksnipe and band-tailed pigeons.

Currently, the Special Hunts Program provides thousands of pheasant, turkey and quail hunting opportunities for juniors, women, families and open public hunts. The *Schedule of Special Hunts* is available after June of each year. Additional publications such as *Pheasant Hunting on State and Federal Lands in California*, *Guide to Hunting The Quail of California*, *Guide for Hunting Wild Pigs in California*, and the *California Turkey Hunter's Guide* may be picked up at California Department of Fish and Game offices or by calling (916) 653-GAME.

Gray Squirrel Hunting

So you think you want to go squirrel hunting? Okay, but remember, they may be small, but they are not stupid.

Several species of tree squirrel occur in California, however only the Western Grey Squirrel provides extensive and worthwhile hunting and eating opportunity. This is the largest tree squirrel in California and may approach two feet in length.

Squirrels live in lots of places in California. Learning a little about the ecology of squirrels will allow you to better understand where and how to hunt squirrels. They are fairly common in mature stands of most conifer, hardwood and mixed hardwood conifer habitats throughout California. They are also found in riparian woodlands along the many Central Valley rivers. They require cavities in trees and snags for nests. Food varies seasonally, however acorns are an important summer, fall and winter food. Grey squirrels are non migratory and home ranges vary from about .5 to 2.5 acres in size.

What do you need to go squirrel hunting? A shotgun of any gauge or a small caliber rifle like a .22 caliber semiautomatic. If you are new to squirrel hunting a shotgun with number 6 shot is best. Shotguns are better as the squirrels tend to jump from tree to tree a lot, but the shot can be a problem when eating, the ultimate goal. Dress for the weather and bring food and water. Know where you are before you decide where to go. That way you will get back to your vehicle in time for dinner.

Where to go? In the central part of the state the best opportunity to hunt grey squirrels occurs on national forest land within the range of black oaks and mixed black oaks with conifers. This may be, depending on latitude, from about 2,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation. Check the "Information Center" page for national forest maps and get going! In the Sierras, Highways 120, 108, 4, 88, 50, 80, 20, 70 and 36 will all get you into tree squirrel habitat. You can combine a squirrel hunting and mountain quail hunt when the seasons overlap.

Get your gear together, an ice chest to store your lunch and the squirrels you are going to bag and start looking. When you are sure you are where the squirrels are supposed to be, based on the habitat you are in, it's time to go hunting.

Basically, you can stalk these critters or sit on a rock, tree stump or folding chair and wait. A combination of the two usually works best. Stalk till you find a concentration and then wait them out. Your chance will come when they can't sit still any longer. Pack some food and drink with you for it may be a little wait.

Once you've killed some squirrels, its time to clean 'em up so you can get to cooking and eating. Gut as soon as possible. And then keep 'em cool. Squirrel is normally very mild flavored and tender. You can broil or barbecue or make a stew or pot pie. Garlic is always good with squirrel. Any way you decide to cook them just remember they are best with biscuits or corn bread.

Remember, in California the daily bag and possession limit for tree squirrels is 4 per day and 4 in possession.

The **tree squirrel general season begins the second Saturday in September extending through the last Sunday in January (Sept. 9, 2000- Jan. 28, 2001)**. This applies to the counties of Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and that portion of Kern County lying east of Interstate 5.

Archery and Falconry Tree Squirrel Season and Area: Tree squirrels may be taken with bow and arrow or raptors only during the general tree squirrel season and as follows: the season in the counties of the Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yuba: and that portion of Kern lying east of Interstate 5 shall open on the first Saturday in August extending through the day before general tree squirrel season (August 5 -Sept. 8, 2000).

The following is a list of public lands where squirrels are often found. Call the phone number for additional information and a map. Central Valley DFG wildlife areas are restricted to shotgun and archery hunting only.

PLACES TO HUNT

National Forests of California - Check the Information Page for phone numbers of the National Forest Offices or for any forest map contact: U.S. Forest Service, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592; or call (707) 562-8737. U.S. Forest Service maps are \$6 each. Plan a weekend and camp out at one of the many campgrounds.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres) - Type C area - 25 miles east of Red Bluff on Highway 36 to Plum Creek Road; or east of Red Bluff on Hogsback Road. Tree squirrels found along Plum Creek, Durley Flat, Antelope and Oak Creeks. Call DFG at (530) 597-2201.

Oroville Wildlife Area (10,000 acres) - Type C area - West of Oroville on Highway 162, (530) 538-2236. No rifles or pistols

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) - Type C area - East of Marysville on Highway 20 about 18 miles and turn right on Smartville Road for 1 mile, (530) 538-2236.

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (3766 acres) - Type C area - 10 miles west of Yuba City via Highway 20 or Franklin Road or Oswald Road or Highway 113. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. No rifles or pistols.

Feather River Wildlife Area (2200 acres in 5 separate properties) - Type C areas - 10-15 miles south of Yuba City and Marysville. Abbott Lake and the O'Connor Lakes Units are south of Yuba City on Garden Highway at the end of Star Bend Road. The Nelson Slough Unit is under the Highway 99 Bridge near Nicolaus. The Star Bend and Lake of the Woods Units are south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard and accessible from the Star Bend Fishing Access. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. No rifles or pistols.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Dept. of Parks and Recreation (530) 885-4527/988-0205.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (2,357 acres) - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road and Dolan Harding Road, DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Knoxville Area in Lake and Napa Counties: Take Knoxville Devilhead Road off of Berryessa Knoxville Road just north of Knoxville. This is the only road into area. Access restricted to foot or horse traffic. BLM in Ukiah (707) 462-3873.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acres of DFG land) and **Cache Creek Management Area** (70,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo, and Colusa Counties - From Williams on I-5, go west about 33 miles on Highway 20 to the parking lot on the south side of the highway. This parking lot is also about 8 miles east of Clearlake Oaks. DFG at (707) 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at (707) 462-3873.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (4,990 acres of DFG land) and **Indian Valley Management Area** (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties - About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 turn north on Walker Ridge Road. DFG at (707) 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at (707) 462-3873.

WHO NEEDS A HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE?

While this seems like a very simple question to answer, many people get confused and either fail to buy a license, buy the wrong one, or buy one when it is not needed. Let's consider fishing licenses first.

No license is needed for anglers that are under the age of 16 years. When they reach their 16th birthday, an adult fishing license is required with the appropriate stamps. A fishing license would make a wonderful birthday present for the person reaching their 16th birthday.

Some people are under the impression that once you reach 65 (or 60, 62, 70; the age varies) you do not need a fishing license. This is not true! You do need a fishing license regardless of your age once you reach 16. However, there are reduced fee and free fishing licenses available if you meet the criteria. SEE THE ARTICLE ENTITLED '*REDUCED FEE HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES...*' in this issue of WBN.

All persons, regardless of age, who hunt any bird or mammal, are required to possess a valid California hunting license. Licenses may be renewed by presenting a CA hunting license from a prior year or evidence of having held such license, a hunter safety certificate, or a certificate of competence to your local license dealer or a DFG license office. Junior licenses are available for persons 15 years old and younger.

To obtain your first hunting license, a person must pass a Hunter Education Class to receive a Hunter Safety Certificate. This certificate can be presented to any license dealer to purchase a current hunting license. These classes are offered in various locations throughout the State and at different times. SEE *HUNTER SAFETY SCHEDULE IN THIS EDITION OF WBN!*

Also, if you plan to hunt out of state, be aware that many states now require you possess a valid hunter safety **certificate** before you can purchase a hunting license. Plan ahead if you cannot find your certificate; enroll in a class as soon as possible.

REDUCED FEE HUNTING AND FISHING, FREE FISHING LICENSE AVAILABLE FOR SOME RESIDENTS

The State Legislature has provided for either free or reduced cost fishing and hunting licenses to persons meeting certain criteria. While the special forms and licenses must be obtained from DFG License and Revenue Branch office in Sacramento or DFG Regional offices, it is worth your added time and effort to apply for these licenses if you meet the criteria. These offices will be happy to provide you with information on requirements, how to apply and the special forms. The phone numbers are found on the Information Page of this newsletter.

If you are 65 or older and meet income criteria (receiving Aid to the Aged; \$676/month or less if single or \$1,201/month or less if married) or have a 70% service connected disability, reduced fee (\$4.25) fishing licenses are available. Free fishing licenses are available for persons permanently disabled using a wheelchair, walker, or forearm crutches; legally blind, receiving services of a Regional Center; or low income native Americans. Check with your nearest DFG office for license applications or additional information.

A \$4.25 hunting license is available for disabled veterans with a 70% or greater service-connected disability, honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces and who meets CA hunter safety requirements. Reduced-fee provisions do not apply to hunting tags or species stamps.

A permit to allow persons with mobility disabilities to hunt from a motor vehicle under certain specific conditions is also available. To obtain information regarding this permit, contact your nearest regional office or call (916) 653-1235.

The above applications will require certifications of qualifying criteria and your signature of truthfulness under penalty of perjury.

Hunter Safety Course Information

The following information is provided by the Department of Fish and Game to purchase your first hunting license. Everyone, regardless of age, must complete a hunter education course. The course is approximately ten hours in length and covers safe hunting practices, sportsmanship, first aid, and principles of conservation. Minors under 18 must have a parent or guardian register for them. Do not take gun to class unless instructed to do so by the instructor. Following is a list of classes offered by county.

Rancho Cordova Cordova Shooting Center (916) 351-0538 Monthly

West Sacramento (916) 373-5860 Monthly

Stockton Manteca Sportsmen's Club (209) 823-7919

Elk Grove Steve Graham (916) 984-1539

Roseville Brad Gunter (916) 728-5500

Placerville Jim Russell (530) 622-2480

Bill Adams (530)622-3794

Arnold Jones (530)644-2797

Chico (530) 896-9935

Dave Shippen (530) 896-7171

Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7

Oroville Nelson Recreation (530) 533-2011

Registration July 24 - Aug. 4 for Aug. 12 class

“ ” Aug. 21-Sept. 1 for Sept. 9 class

“ ” Sept. 25-Oct. 6 for Oct. 6 class

Yuba City 1)Chuck Wyllie (530) 755-1435 Sept., Oct. classes

2)Yuba City Leisure Services (530) 822-4650

Sept. 12, 13, 14

Alameda County

1) San Leandro Optimist Club 2)Dublin
(510) 638-9605 (925) 828-6416

Aug. 5th, 6th July 28, 29, 30

Sept. 9th, 10th Nov. 3, 4, 5

Contra Costa Co.

1)United Sportsman Inc. 2)Martinez Sportsmen's Club
Concord Sportsmen's Club (510) 686-4427

(925) 676-1963 (925) 676-0237

July 22

Aug.26

Tracy (209) 835-3492

Two day class Aug. 26 & 27

Santa Rosa Santa Rosa Park & Recreation Dept. (707) 543-3282

San Francisco Co.

1)Pacific Rod & Gun Club (650) 558-0924

2)Emmet Cartier (925) 209-7248 leave message

Aug. 6 8am - 6pm

Dec. 10 8am- 6pm

San Mateo Co.

1)Coyote Pt. Rifle & Pistol Range (650) 573 - 2557

2)K & G Hunter Ed. Group (Jim Brisbois) (650)358-9344

Santa Clara Co.

1)Santa Clara Valley Rifle Club (408) 972-2360

San Jose Municipal Firing Range

2)Coyote Valley Sporting Clays, Morgan Hill (408) 842-7578

Aug. 19-20 Sept. 30-Oct. 1

Sept. 16-17 Nov. 4-5

3) Santa Clara Co. Field Sports Park Shooting Range (408)379-6118

Willows (530) 934-2638 Aug. & Dec. class

Yolo Co. 1)Knights Landing Sportsmen Club (530) 662-3372 Monthly

2)Yolo Sportsmen Assoc. (530) 662-2349

Rio Linda Area Rio Linda Park District (530) 991-5929

Aug 10, 11 Sept. 7, 8

Citrus Heights Area

Rush Park (916)725-1585 Steve Tharp

Carmichael Park (916) 485-5322 Aug. 19, 20

Grass Valley The Range (530) 273-4440 Monthly

Quincy Harry Howsden (530) 283-1378

Cameron Park Tina Helm (530) 677-2231 X104

Aug. 12 9am -3pm

Aug. 13 9am -1 pm

Rail Road Flats / San Andreas

(209)754-5859 Steve Janicelli

(209)937-7253

Solano Co.

1)**Vallejo** (707) 642-9094 Warren Madison

2)**Fairfield** (707)425-2618 Salvatore DiMarco

3)**Vacaville** The Shooting Gallery (707) 449-4867

July 17, 18, 20, 21 6-9 pm

Aug. 21, 22, 24, 25

Sept. 10 8am -6pm (possible additional classes)

Oct. 1 8am - 6pm (possible additional classes)

Nov. to be determined

Dec. 1, 2 8am-6pm

Sonoma Co.

1)Cotati - Motana Hawk (707) 769-8235

July 29 & 30 Aug. 26 & 27

2)Valley of the Moon Trap Club (707) 648-0410

Sam Grow

3)Santa Rosa - (707)543-3737 Bob Biondi

July 17 Aug. 21

4) Windsor Walmart (707) 836-7200 X109 call for dates

Bowhunting Classes

Yuba City Mall

Gary Adkins (530) 671-0341

Grass Valley

Dave Deacon (530) 268-3549

Stockton

John Waters (209)463-8860

Esparto

Marshall Myers (530)787-3259

Public Shooting Ranges

Name: Safer Arms Indoor Shooting Range
Location: 255 Dominic Dr., Chico CA.
Phone: (530)893-2235

Name: N. Valley Shooters Assoc. (Outdoor Pistol)
Location: Gridley, CA.
Phone: (530) 673-5313

Name: Black Butte Gun Club Inc.
Location: Orland, CA.
Phone: (530) 865-2305

Name: Paradise Rod & Gun Club Inc.
Location: Paradise, CA. Phone: (530) 877- 7068

Name: Spenceville Wildlife Area
Location: Waldo Rd. off of Smartville Rd., Yuba Co.
Phone: (530) 538-2236

Name: Sutter Rifle Range
Location: Second St. near Sutter Co. Airport, Yuba City
Phone: (530) 671- 3006 Wallie Heard
(530) 673-5018 Charles McGurney

Name: Shooters Paradise
Location: 1407 Colusa Ave., Yuba City
Phone: (530) 673-4100

Name: Lincoln Rifle Club & Junior Division
Location: Hwy 65 1 mile North of the town of Lincoln
Phone: (916) 645-7728

Name: Auburn Trapshooting Club
Location: 11540 Lorenson Rd., Auburn CA.
Phone: (916) 885-5748

Name: Alta Mesa Gun Club
Location: Wilton, CA Phone: (916) 683-2215

Name: Tehama Shooters Assoc. Range
Location: 26950 Manton Rd., Paynes Creek, Ca.
Phone: (530) 527-0650

Name: Manteca Sportsmen's Club
Location: West on Maze Blvd. across San Joaquin river, turn right onto Kasson Rd. to dead end, turn right over river to second house.
Phone: (209) 823-7919

Name: James Mangan Rifle & Pistol Range
Location: 2140 34th Ave., Sacramento
Phone: (916) 427-9811

Name: Sacramento Valley Shooting Center
Location: 15501 Meiss Rd., So. East of Rcho Murieta
Phone: (916) 952-3780

Name: Bradens Indoor Range & Sales Shop
Location: 10173 Croydon Way, Rancho Cordova
Phone: (916) 366-7078

Name: Sacramento Trapshooting Club
Location: 3710 Fulton Ave., Sacramento
Phone: (916) 484-9889

Name: Yolo Sportsmen's Assoc.
Location: Rd. 29 & Rd. 95A on Aviation Ave.
at the N. end of Yolo Co. Airport
Phone: (916) 662-2349

Name: Cordova Shooting Center
Location: Corner of Sunrise Blvd. & Douglas Rd.
Phone: (916) 351- 0205

Name: San Leandro Rifle & Pistol Range
Location: 3001 Davis St. San Leandro
Phone: (510) 638-9605

Name: Coyote Point Range
Location: 1601 Coyote Pt. Dr. San Mateo
Phone: (650) 573-2557

Name: The Shooting Gallery
Location: 27 Commerce Place, Vacaville
Phone: (707) 449-4867

Name: The Range
Location: Grass Valley
Phone: (530) 273-4440

Name: Nevada County Sportsmen's Club
Location: 11296 Banner Mtn. Trail, Nevada City
Phone: (530) 265-5135

Name: Nice Shot LLC. Redding Indoor Shooting Range
Location: 4765 Caterpillar Rd., Redding
Phone: (530) 241-6486

Name: Rice Canyon Range
Location: Susanville
Phone: (530) 257-3200

Name: The Range
Location: 5151 N. Gates, Fresno
Phone: (559) 277-9800

Name: Pavillion Gun Range/Target Masters East
Location: 3008 E. Hammer Lane #109 , Stockton
Phone: (209) 955-5885

Name: Target Masters
Location: 122 Minnis Circle, Milpitas
Phone: (408) 263-7468

Name: Brentwood Rod & Gun Club
Location: 356 Granite Circle, Antioch
Phone: (925)754-3691

Name: United Sportsmen's Club
Location: 4700 Evora Rd., Concord
Phone: (925) 676-1987

Name: Turlock Sportsmen's Club
Location: 13949 Carpenter Rd., Crowslanding
Phone: (209) 634-3951

Name: Hat Creek Rifle & Pistol Club
Location: Burney, CA
Phone: (530)335-7348

Name: Sunnyvale Rod & Gun Club
Location: 11998 Stevens Canyon Rd., Cupertino
Phone: (408) 873-8255

Name: Pacific Rod & Gun Club
Location: 520 John Muir Dr., San Francisco
Phone: (415) 586-8349

Name: San Jose Municipal Pistol Range
Location: 1580 S. 10th St., San Jose
Phone: (408) 275-1738

Name: Santa Clara County Fields Sports Park
Location: 9580 Malech Rd., San Jose
Phone: (408) 463-0652

Junior Hunters Start Your Fall Hunting Plans Now!

There is a fantastic hunting opportunity for junior hunters looking for a great 'shot' at bagging pheasants. Sutter County Fish and Game Commission and DFG sponsor a junior pheasant hunt which includes a fantastic planted bird hunt with group hunt supervisors. Scheduled for the Saturday and Sunday before the pheasant season opener, these morning and afternoon hunts offer a total hunter capacity of 260 total junior hunters. The cover is native upland vegetation, and these hunts will be fun for experienced hunters and a terrific hunt for first-timers. The bird average has been 1.7 birds per hunter for several years. With plenty of birds planted per hunter, even if your junior does not bag as many pheasants as you might hope, there is more than enough shooting opportunity to provide them with a memorable experience.

This hunt rarely fills each hunt time slot. You must have a reservation, so we would like to encourage you to be ready to apply as soon as our Fall issue comes out. This is a great opportunity and Sutter Co. Fish and Game Commission and DFG want as many hunters as possible to participate.

With this hunt and the many more planned for the fall, start your plans now in regards to hunter safety courses, gear purchasing and of course lots of target practice. The schedule for all of the special hunts offered to juniors, women and families will be posted on our DFG homepage (dfg.ca.gov) and in the Fall issue of Wing Beat News.

Two "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" Workshops Set For September - November

The California Department of Fish and Game's popular "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" program has scheduled its northern and central California workshops. The dates are Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 at the Feather River Inn in Plumas County, and Nov. 17 through 19 at Wonder Valley Ranch in Fresno County.

Application deadline for the workshops are Aug. 18 for the Plumas County event and Oct. 6 for the event in Fresno County. A registration fee of \$195 covers two nights lodging, seven meals, a wild game feed and evening programs.

The workshops offer hands-on training in a variety of outdoor skills that include fly fishing, bait fishing, map and compass reading, outdoor/Dutch oven cooking, shotgun and rifle shooting, upland game and waterfowl hunting, backpacking, canoeing and kayaking, and others.

Workshop instructors are top-notch and include professional biologists, hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts who have experience in instructing women. Instructors volunteer their time and receive only a stipend to cover travel expenses.

This workshop is for you, if...

- * you have never tried outdoor sports, but hope for an opportunity to learn.
- * you are a beginner who hopes to improve your skills.
- * you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try your hand at some new ones.
- * you are just looking for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals.

For registration packets, call our 24-hour information number (916) 657-4333, or request a packet via the program's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/owoman.html>. For additional questions you can call our Help Desk at (916) 653-7748. If you are interested in Sponsorships or Donations, please contact our Program Coordinator at (916) 653-7448. Each workshop is limited to 100 participants. If more than 100 applications are received for a workshop, slots will be awarded through a random drawing. Those registrants who have not attended a previous workshop will have preference.

SPORTSMEN OFFERED BUY OF A LIFETIME BY LICENSE SECTION

What if you could hunt ducks in California but never had to buy another state duck stamp? Or fish without worrying if you had a striped bass stamp or salmon punch card? What if you could buy a fishing or hunting license that was good for the rest of your life?

You can save hundreds of dollars in license fees by buying a lifetime license and additional fishing or hunting privileges. Better yet, you can avoid future fee increases that result from inflation. This makes hunting and fishing licenses a lot more economical to purchase.

What does it cost? The license fees are based on your age at the time of purchase:

Age at Purchase of Lifetime License	Lifetime Fishing License	Lifetime Hunting License	Lifetime Sportsman's License
Birth to 9 years	\$300	\$300	\$600
10 to 39 years	\$495	\$495	\$990
40 to 61 years	\$445	\$445	\$890
62 or older	\$300	\$300	\$600

* Additional Fishing Privileges. Fee: \$200. Includes one second-rod stamp, ocean enhancement stamp, striped bass stamp, salmon punch card, and steelhead report card each year for life.

* Additional Bird Hunting Privileges. Fee: \$200. Includes one California duck stamp and one upland game bird stamp each year for life.

* Additional Big Game Hunting Privileges. Fee: \$310. Includes one deer tag application and book of five wild pig tags each year for life. The deer tag application can be used to apply for a deer tag in our annual automated drawing, or to pick up an over-the-counter tag.

Lifetime licenses are available two ways. Either mail an application or go to the License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 or you can charge to your Visa or Mastercard by calling (916) 227-2246.

2nd ANNUAL FISHING DAY AT GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE AREA

The Gridley Recreation/Community Services along with Butte County Fish and Game, Gridley Quota Club and many other area businesses and organizations are sponsoring a terrific FREE fishing event open to kids 15 years old and under at the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area on Saturday, July 29, 2000. A pond will be stocked with catfish and bait and tackle will be available for those who need it. There will be prize drawings and a prize awarded for the largest fish of the day.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and derby hours are from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Last years derby was a great success with lots of fishermen and plenty more cheerleaders. Anyone, including those over 16 with a valid fishing license, may fish after 1:00 p.m. If you would like more information about this popular community event you can call the Gridley Recreation Department at (530) 846-3264.

“Catch-and-Release” San Joaquin County’s Unique Brand of Perfect Justice

Many anglers cited for fishing without a license leave San Joaquin County Judge Barbara Kronlund’s courtroom with a *guarantee* they’ll never commit the violation again. And they’ll continue to enjoy a lifetime of fishing.

While fishing without a license is an infraction, the legislature mandated a minimum fine of \$690 for those convicted—a hefty fine for anyone. However, loss of fees from those who refuse to purchase a license could cripple Fish and Game’s fisheries management efforts. Sport fishing license fees provide \$33 million annually for the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to manage California’s fishery resources.

In the interest of justice, District Attorney John D. Phillips, through his environmental unit, and Deputy District Attorney David Irely worked with Judge Cinda Fox and concluded that the \$690 could be better spent purchasing a lifetime fishing license. The program has been offered to several hundred defendants since its inception two years ago. Judge Barbara Kronlund, who took the Fish and Game calendar over from Judge Fox recently, has continued the program. For example, a 25-year-old defendant is offered an option of using \$495 of the fine to pay for a lifetime fishing license, with the \$195 difference paid to the San Joaquin County Fish and Game Propagation Fund. In exchange, the citation is dismissed. The defendants have 90 days to provide proof to the court that he or she purchased the lifetime license.

“It’s perfect justice,” said Lieutenant Dennis Deanda from Fish and Game’s Wildlife Protection Division. “The lifetime license money goes directly back into the resource and defendants are pleased to have the charge dismissed and a lifetime of fishing ahead of them.”

The mandatory \$690 fine is broken down to a minimum fine of \$250 for the first offense. The court must add a 170 percent penalty assessment (\$425), plus \$15 for the CalTIP Program. Cost of the license varies with age. See the complete cost chart for lifetime licenses in this issue of Wing Beat News.



Fishing in the City Summer 2000 Schedule

Free Fishing Instruction Clinics!
Clinics sponsored by Ca. Dept Fish & Game and
City, District or County Parks Departments &
other organizations as noted.
Ponds Stocked with Catfish.
Free Loan (for 50) of Rods, Bait and Tackle!

Sat, July 8	William Land Park (Land Park Drive across from Sacramento Zoo, cosponsor: City Parks & Council District 4)	4 - 6 pm
Sat, Aug 5	Gibson Ranch** (West of Watt Ave, on Elverta Road in Elverta)	8:30 - Noon
Sat, Aug 12	Hagan Park* (End of Chase Dr., off Coloma Road in Rancho Cordova, cosponsor: RC Kiwanis)	8:30 - Noon
Sat, Aug 26	Elk Grove Park** (Next to EG High School on Elk Grove - Florin Rd., in Elk Grove)	8:30 - Noon
Sat, Sept 9	Mather Lake* (West of South Sunrise Blvd, at Douglas and Eagles Nest Road)	8:30 - Noon
Sat, Sept 23	Howe Park (Howe Ave & Cottage Way in Sacramento)	8:30 - Noon

*Anglers 16 years of age and older need a fishing license to fish in California.
Parks with * or ** have a \$2.00 or \$4.00 per car parking fee.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (916) 358-2872*

Illegal Fish Plant at Scotts Flat Lake Nets \$1,465 Fine

NEVADA CITY - Quick reaction by employees of the Scotts Flat Marina helped the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) track down a Grass Valley man who had illegally planted up to 400 channel catfish at Scotts Flat Lake.

Dennis Dean Sorrell of Grass Valley pleaded guilty in a Nevada County Superior Court and was fined \$1,465 for the March 17 illegal fish plant. Planting fish without a permit from the Department in any waters of the state is considered a misdemeanor under Section 6400 of the California Fish and Game code.

“Many people don’t realize planting fish as seemingly benign as catfish or even the accidental planting of minnows often leads to an established population.” said John Hiscox, a DFG fishery biologist in the Grass Valley area. “Native or other desirable species can be out-competed for food.”

Employees at the Scotts Flat Marina witnessed the illegal fish plant, wrote down the license plate number of Sorrell’s vehicle and reported it to Fish and Game. The employees retrieved about 40 dead fingerling catfish and provided them to DFG for evidence.

Warden Wade Johnson used the license plate information to trace Sorrell to an apartment in Grass Valley. Through his investigation, Johnson determined that Sorrell purchased 1,000 fingerling catfish from a Georgia aquaculture farm and had the fish shipped to California in an oxygen enriched, airtight bag via Federal Express. About half of them died. Federal Express confirmed the shipment of live fish.

“We had hoped that Lake Davis was a lesson to anglers playing ‘bucked biology’, that illegal fish planting can ruin a fishery.” said Mike Grima, Regional Patrol Chief of DFG’s Conservation Education and Enforcement Branch. Fish and Game is also concerned that the fish, after having been grown in an aquaculture setting in another state, could host a disease that may spread to California waters.



Fish and Game Commission Adopts Mammal Regulations

SACRAMENTO - The California Fish and Game Commission has approved longer hunts, new and expanded hunt zones, and some increased tag quotas for the 2000-2001 hunting season.

Fish and Game commission voted, via an April 27 conference call, to adopt the mammal hunting and trapping regulations for July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. The regulations include a new north coast elk hunt, removal of the cap on bear tag sales and the elimination of doe pronghorn tags.

The new elk hunt, known as the Big Lagoon Roosevelt Elk Hunt, will occur on private land owned by Simpson Timber Company in Humboldt County. Twenty-five either-sex tags will be issued for the hunt, which takes place August 30 through September 8, 2000.

In addition to approving the new elk hunt, the Commission voted to remove the 18,000 tag limit on bear tag sales. However, the bear hunting season will still be closed when the 1,500 bears are reported taken.

The Commission also eliminated all doe pronghorn tags for the 2000-2001 season in response to survey data on California's northeastern pronghorn population. The 1999-2000 winter census counted 4,330 pronghorn, a decline from the previous year and the third consecutive year below 5,000 animals. According to Jon Fischer, a DFG biologist and statewide pronghorn antelope program coordinator, "Since the '92-'93 winter, pronghorn populations have not recovered to the extent the DFG had expected. The recent survey gives cause for concern, but not alarm."

Researchers are still optimistic for the long-term recovery of the state's pronghorn. In the meantime wildlife managers are recommending less hunting pressure. A change in the deer tag drawing system, approved by the Commission, will give deer hunters a better chance of hunting in the first-choice zone. The system, called "draw-by-choice," was adopted in response to hunter concerns about the computer drawing process where it was possible for some hunters to receive premium tags with their second or third choice over hunters who selected the same zone with their first choice.

Other changes approved for deer hunts include:

One tag, three zones: Hunters with a Zone D-3, D-4 or D-5 tag can now hunt in all three zones with a common season.

Reinstate one hunt: The Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Hunt G8, canceled in 1999, has been brought back with a quota of 60 tags.

Lengthen season for Hunt G-10: The Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt is extended, from 65 to 72 days. In addition, rifle hunting will be open the day after Thanksgiving. Since licensed hunters have already taken hunter safety training, the safety test required for hunting on the base is eliminated.

Three new Junior Hunts: There is now a Los Angeles Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt in Zone D-11, a Riverside Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt in Zone D-19, and an Anderson Flat Junior Buck Hunt in Zone D-6.

Modify Zone X-1 season: The season is being moved three weeks later to coincide with neighboring X zones and allow hunting during a cooler period.

Shorten B-6 season: The season is being shortened, from 37 days to 30 days, in response to deer herd performance being below objectives.

Modify Zone X-1 Archery season: The season has been changed to coincide with the general season change and neighboring X zones.

Additional changes to bighorn sheep and elk regulations include:

New bighorn sheep hunt: A new Nelson bighorn sheep hunt has been established in the Sheephole Mountains, in San Bernardino County.

Expanded bighorn sheep hunt zone: The Marble Mountains bighorn sheep zone is expanded to include the adjoining Clipper Mountains.

Bighorn Sheep Tag quotas: Ten bighorn sheep tags will be issued, down from 11 in 1999.

New elk hunts: In addition to the new Big Lagoon Roosevelt Elk Hunt, a Period Three Hunt has been established for the Tinemaha zone of the Owens Valley Tule Elk Hunt.

Extended elk seasons: The seasons are extended for the Del Norte and Klamath Roosevelt elk hunts and the Cache Creek and La Panza tule elk hunts.

Elk tag quotas: A total of 286 elk tags will be issued, up nearly 20 percent from the number of elk tags issued last year.

FARMING AND WILDLIFE GO HAND IN HAND

By Melissa Heringer Reprinted from AG ALERT, the California Farm Bureau newspaper

Doug McGeoghegan has been farming rice on Gunner's Field Ranch since 1973, and has been a recent board member for the California State Fish and Game Commission. His Colusa county farm provides habitat for several species of wildlife, including ducks, geese, swans, egrets, ring-necked pheasants, herons, and many species of raptors. In all the farm is home to up to 85 different species of birds at various times of the years. Gunner's Field Ranch is located north of Delevan National Wildlife Refuge.

In an effort to provide undisturbed nesting habitat and cover for these species, McGeoghegan leaves hedgerows around his fields and ditch banks. He also leaves some fields fallow and avoids mowing or other preparatory work in them until after the fourth of July, a practice that, according to McGeoghegan, is common to farmers up and down the Central Valley. This allows for duck and pheasant broods to mature and be "up and out" before any work is done in the fields.

In addition to these activities, McGeoghegan also floods his fields in the winter to provide habitat for waterfowl along their migration route. More and more farmers are flooding their fields in order to comply with burning restrictions, a move that is aiding wildlife. According to McGeoghegan, seeing the increasing numbers of wildlife coming to their farms causes farmers to "approach that [regulation] with a little more enthusiasm," and now more than 150,000 of the 500,000 acres of rice land in the Central Valley are being enhanced by farmers to provide seasonal wetlands for waterfowl. Although not being able to burn as much ground creates some hardship by leading to further expense and more disease outbreaks such as rice blast, McGeoghegan thinks that flooding has been a positive development and says, "it's been a good-news story all the way around."

Flooded rice fields, in addition to providing cover and habitat, provide feed for the birds. Each [flooded rice field acre] field, says McGeoghegan, provides 200-300 lbs. of waste grains and an additional 200-300 lbs of macro-invertebrates. These provide waterfowl with excellent sources of both complex carbohydrates and protein. These nutrients allow the waterfowl to fly back to their Canadian breeding grounds in "much better condition" for laying eggs and raising young. McGeoghegan does all this because, he explains, "we're trying to propagate healthy and sustainable populations" of wildlife. He feels strongly that leaving nests and feeding habitat undisturbed increases the survival rates of eggs and chicks significantly.

McGeoghegan believes that agriculture and conservation can go hand in hand, saying that it's been "proven time and again that they can be compatible." He, like other farmers, has "always had kind of a conservation bent," and considers himself "extremely fortunate to have this wildlife treasure trove." McGeoghegan says that he's not alone in this belief, and he finds it a "satisfying endeavor" to help wildlife like he does because, "I can't imagine a world without wildlife."

What Can You Do For Wildlife

1. Clear weeds from just one side of water ditches when necessary.
2. Plant wildlife food plots which can be left for winter cover and feed.
3. Build and install wood duck, barn owl, bluebird and bat boxes.

If you are interested in enhancing wildlife habitat on public or private lands, please contact Wildlife Biologist, Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068.
(This is the third in a series of articles about farmers and ranchers who have made a commitment to conservation)

Department of Fish and Game Arrests 20 in Three Separate North Coast/Bay area Abalone Poaching Operations

OAKLAND - Following a months-long undercover operation, a two-day search and arrest warrant operation by the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Special Operations Unit (SOU) has resulted in the arrests of 20 Bay area residents. Officers from the State Department of Justice and the Richmond Police Department assisted the 62 uniformed DFG wardens. The arrests were made in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Those arrested during the operation, dubbed Haliotis III, included groups of divers, wholesalers, buyers and deliverymen, said Fred Cole, a deputy chief of DFG's Enforcement Branch. Charges filed by the Contra Costa and Sonoma County District Attorneys offices ranged from felony conspiracy, to illegal take, sale and purchase of abalone, and the illegal commercialization of abalone from a closed district. The poachers where required to post between \$20,000 and \$60,000 bail to be released from jail. If convicted of all charges, the poachers face up to a maximum of three years in state prison, and a minimum \$20,000 fine. Several vehicles, illegal drugs, and other evidence were also confiscated by DFG wardens during the operation.

Haliotis III follows last September's very successful operation conducted by the DFG which resulted in the arrest of 16 subjects. Of those, five are facing a grand jury hearing on felony conspiracy charges. Seven others prosecuted in Sonoma County were convicted of felony conspiracy charges, one is facing a felony conspiracy trial, and the others were convicted of misdemeanor charges.

"Since last year's operation we've noticed a decrease in abalone poaching activity which we attribute to the significant fines and jail terms and outstanding community support from the Sonoma County Abalone Network and other concerned citizens," said Cole. "But this illegal activity is still continuing at an unacceptable level. The last, great concentration of red abalone left in the world is located on California's North Coast, and we've made it a big priority to save this resource."

North Coast red abalone can only be taken by sport divers for personal consumption, with a limit of four per day (with a possession limit of four at any one time), and a maximum of 100 per year. The minimum length of abalone taken legally is seven inches in the shell. The commercial take of abalone, which has always been prohibited in the North Coast, has been closed statewide the past three years because of a severe decline in the abalone population. Additionally, it is unlawful to take abalone by divers using scuba gear. Abalone can only be taken by sport divers collecting from exposed rocks or by free diving. The abalone sport season runs from April 1 to June 30, and then from Aug. 1 to Nov. 30, only in ocean waters north of the San Francisco Bay.

"We hope this and future efforts by our SOU will serve notice that abalone poachers and other wildlife violators should beware," Cole said. "We are watching you and if you participate in these illegal activities you will be held accountable."

A Little Bit About Deer

By Ron Rogers

In the Sacramento Valley - Central Sierra Region, deer numbers and condition appear to be about the same as in recent years. Because of fairly normal amounts of rain and snow, habitat conditions are generally good, especially at high elevations.

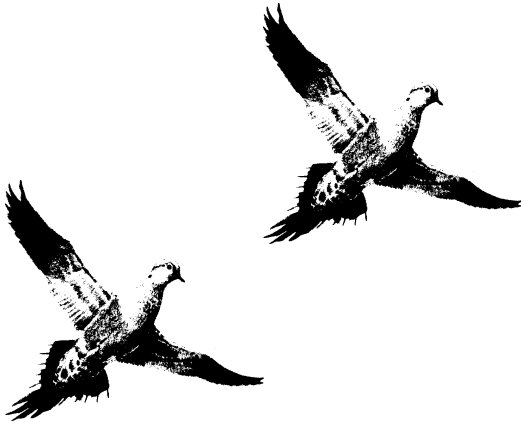
In your search for deer, remember that they prefer areas of "early successional habitat". Recent disturbance such as fire or logging results in early successional habitat. Following such disturbance, a cycle of succession is set into motion in which grasses and forbs quickly invade and are dominant for a short while, followed by shrubs and other woody vegetation for a few years, then small to large, often broad-leaved trees. The slower growing pines or firs, often called the dominant species, eventually overtop and shade out most other plants. The dominant species will tend to maintain itself in dense stands until a new disturbance occurs. Although some wildlife species depend on the last stage of the cycle for their existence, the early stages of the cycle typically support the greatest numbers and diversity of wildlife.

Look for those areas that have been disturbed in recent years. Although this is extremely variable, open stands of mixed conifers with an understory of brush and herbaceous vegetation should hold deer. When you see these areas, look for deer and evidence of their presence (tracks, droppings, browsed plants) and you should be able to quickly learn to find deer. Recent analysis of data from radio-collared deer also reveals that 90% of the deer in the D5 zone spent the summer above 5,500 feet in elevation. They seemed to be associated with mixed conifer stands with a good amount of red fir and white fir – again, with plenty of brush, herbaceous plants and open areas.

What's that blue post card attached to my deer tags?

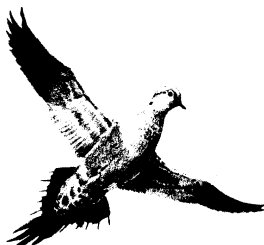
The Department of Fish and Game is developing several methods to keep track of deer. The post card survey is one of these and is showing considerable promise. It provides results similar to other - more expensive methods. Basically, from this survey we get a snapshot in time - opening day - and you, the observer, can help by telling us how many deer you saw that day and how long you hunted. The deer seen per hour of effort may be a reliable way of following trends in deer herds from year to year. Please help us evaluate this method by completing and returning the card (seven questions) whether you hunted opening day or not.

Western Outdoor News is offering some hunting events this fall for dove, flighted mallard and bobwhite quail:



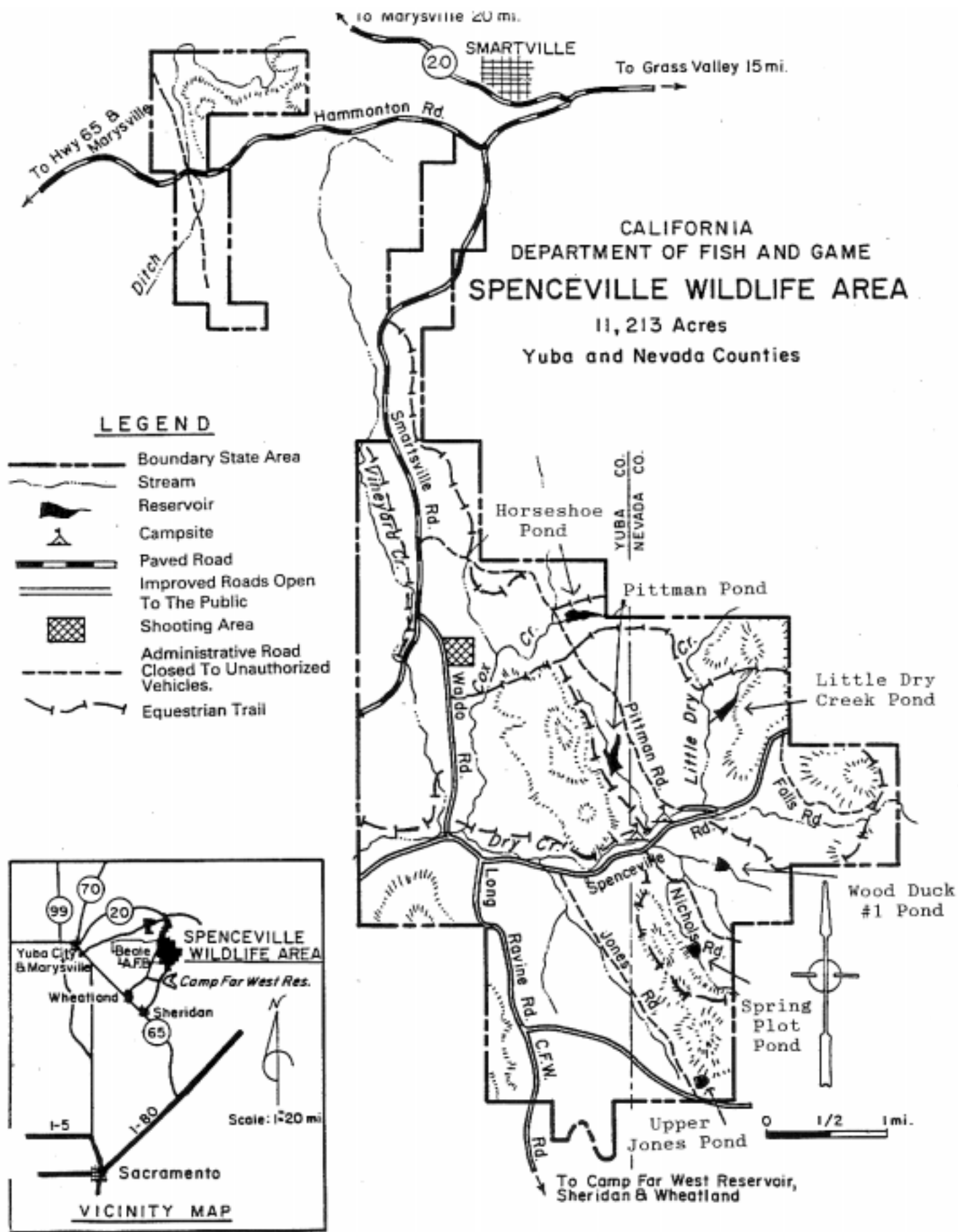
WON HUNTS DOVES in Northern California with Multiple Use Managers at the 37,000-acre Dye Creek Hunting Preserve out of Los Molinos east of Red Bluff. Includes free camping, three days dove hunting (maximum 2 daily limits,) barbecue, special WON HUNTS polo shirt and free drawing for a Firestone Electric Knife Sharpener. Non-hunters free except for barbecue. Limited to 50 hunters. Cost: \$175. Hunt 5 (Sept. 1-3). (530) 642-0870.

WON HUNTS DOUBLE DUCKS at Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve near Ione. Pre-season primer for the duck season! A full day of hunting 480 released flighted mallards. 24 hunters total, with 20 ducks per person released, 10 in the morning and 10 in the afternoon, birds will be divided among all hunters. Free barbecue at midday, free WON HUNTS custom polo shirt, free box of Kent Cartridges steel shotshells, and drawing for free Firestone Electric Knife Sharpener. Cost is \$425. Free on-site camping. Hunt 9, (Oct. 7.) (530) 642-0870.



WON HUNTS BOBWHITE QUAIL in California at Quail Point Hunt Club near Zamora above Woodland. 20 bobwhite quail released per person, huge barbecue at midday, free WON HUNTS custom polo shirts, drawing for a free Firestone Electric Knife Sharpener. Private fields for groups of 2 or 3. Additional youth or teenage hunters may share birds free with paying hunter, barbecue extra. Cost is \$275 for 20 birds for everything with your own dog, add \$25 per 2-person group for rental pointing dog. Some dogs and handlers available. Hunt 10, (Nov. 4.) (530) 642-0870.

For more information and reservations call Bill Karr at Western Outdoor News at (530) 642-0870.



SPENCEVILLE WILDLIFE AREA - 11,213 acres

Open for Hunting: Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 and spring turkey season, Type C area

Access: East of Marysville on Highway 20 about 18 miles and turn right on Smartsville Road for 1 mile to enter the wildlife area.

Activities: ***Mourning dove*** - Good nesting population, hunting best along the 16.5 miles of perennial stream and 40+ ponds.

Wild turkey - Best hunting in the spring. Permits are issued by drawing for Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday for the first 9 days of spring turkey season. Call the Department of Fish and Game, Region 2, in February for spring turkey hunt application instructions.

Deer - Good population. Columbian black-tailed deer may migrate down from higher elevations in Nevada and Sierra Counties in late October. Good, resident deer population. Zone D-3.

Valley quail - Found near water and blackberries.

Tree squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, and ground squirrels - Scattered throughout the area.

Wild pig - On rare occasions they enter the area from the south.

Waterfowl - Jump shoot the ponds for mallards and wood ducks.

Chukar and bobwhite (leftover after dog field trials) - Chukar may be taken during chukar season and the bobwhite may be taken during quail season. Usually found in the open areas.

Fishing - Fishing best for largemouth bass, bluegill, and catfish in the following waters: Pittman, Horseshoe, Little Dry Creek, Wood Duck #1, Spring Plot, and Upper Jones Ponds. Also Dry Creek, Little Dry Creek, and Cox Creek.

Cost: None. No registration or reservation required except for the first 9 days of spring turkey season.

Motels: Contact the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce at (530) 743-5601 for motel information in Marysville and Yuba City.

Pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulation, Section 550 (b) (1), the Regional Manager has authorized the following specific regulations governing individual activities on this wildlife area.

A. Camping - Camping from Sept. 1 through April 15 in designated campsites only. Camping is limited to 7 consecutive days or 14 days total during the calendar year.

B. Dog Training - Permits for individuals are issued July 1 through March 15 by DFG, Region 2.

C. Equestrian Trail Riding - Trail riding is limited to designated trails, graveled administrative roads (Pittman, Falls, Nichols, Jones), and within 25 feet of any wildlife area exterior boundary fence. No cross country riding is permitted.

D. Equestrian-drawn carriages - Only county roads open to vehicles may be used.

E. Bicycles - Bicycle use by individuals is restricted to graveled administrative roads (Pittman, Falls, Nichols, Jones) and county roads. The roads listed above are all gated with white pipe gates.

F. Archery - Target practice at the public archery and/or shooting areas only. Archery equipment may be possessed on the wildlife area during hunting seasons when archery equipment is authorized.

THE AREA MANAGER SHALL DETERMINE IF OTHER INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS OR TITLE 14 ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRIMARY WILDLIFE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AREA. INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE AREA MANAGER AT (530) 538-2236.

PLEASE NOTE: Area regulations are subject to change. Special restrictions on recreational uses, hunt days and methods of take are listed in the current year's issue of HUNTING AND OTHER PUBLIC USES ON STATE AND FEDERAL AREAS, available at Fish and Game offices and places where licenses are sold.

Department of Fish and Game, Region 2, 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, California 95670. (916) 358-2900 Revised 10/98

INFORMATION CENTER

Internet - DFG homepage: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

DFG, Hdqtrs, 1416 Ninth St., Sacto, 95814 (916)653-7664
Conservation Education (916) 653-6420
Inland Fisheries (916) 653-6194
Marine Resources (916) 653-6281
Natural Heritage (916) 324-0565
Personnel (916) 653-8120
Project Wild/Aquatic (916) 653-3857
Wildlife Management (916) 653-7203
Wildlife Protection (916) 653-4094
Mountain Lion Emergencies (916) 445-0045
DFG, *Region 1*, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001, (916) 225-2300, FAX (916) 225-2381.
DFG, *Region 2*, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 358-2900, FAX (916) 358-2912.
DFG, *Region 3*, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, (707) 944-5500, FAX (707) 944-5563.
DFG, *Region 4*, 1234 Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 243-4005, FAX (209) 243-4022.
DFGm *Region 5*, 4949 Viewridge Ave, San Diego, CA 92123, (619) 467-4201, FAX (619) 467-4235
DFG, *Region 6*, 330 Golden Shore, Suite 50, Long Beach, CA 90802, (562) 590-5132, FAX (562) 590-5152.
DFG, *Region 7*, 20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., #100, Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 649-2870
DFG, License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 227-2177 / 227-2244
Wildlife Areas
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 3207 Rutherford Rd.,
Gridley, CA 95948 (530) 846-3315
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, P.O. Box 368
Suisun CA 94585 (707) 425-3828
Oroville/Spenceville Wildlife Areas, 945 Oro Dam Blvd
Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 538-2236
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, P.O. Box 190
Butte City, CA 95920 (530) 982-2169
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 45211 County Rd 32B
Davis, CA 95616 (530) 757-2461

CALTIP - Californians Turn in Poachers
1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)
DFG Hunter Education Information
Program Administrator (916) 653-1235
Region 1, Coordinator (530)225-2304 Rec (530) 225-2003
Region 2, Coordinator (916)358-2908 Rec (916)351-0833
Region 3, Coordinator (707)944-5544 Rec (707)944-5576
Region 4, Coordinator (559)222-3761, Ext 124 Rec 243-4027
Region 5, Coordinator (562)590-5185 Rec (562)590-5670
Upland Game Bird Publications (Quail, Pig and Turkey Guides)
1-916-653-GAME.

Farming for Wildlife Brochure -
Contact Glenn Rollins at (916) 653-7203.
Fishing in the City Stocking Program (916)358-2872 (Sacto)
Sport Fishing Information 1-800-ASK-FISH (275-3474)
Wild Trout Project Newsletter (2x/year) c/o Stan Stephens,
Editor 8530 W. Roosevelt Ave, Visalia, CA 93291-9458
(209) 651-1710
Trout Planting information
Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra (916) 351-0832
Northern California(530) 225-2146
Coastal Counties (Mendocino to San Luis Obispo)
(707) 944-5581
San Joaquin Vly-Southern Sierra (209) 222-3761 Ext 183

Becoming an Outdoors Woman (916) 657-4333

Subscription to: Outdoor California, P.O. Box 944209,
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. Six issues are \$ **9.95 per yearFor**
Wing Beat subscribers, normally \$12 . Offer expires 9/99.
For subscription assistance call
(916) 653-7664.

To report a BIRD BAND call 1-800-327-BAND

Sacramento NWR, 752 County Rd. 99W, Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-2801

Wing Beat News-San Joaquin Valley, Contact Los Banos WA,
18110 W. Henry Miller Ave, Los Banos, CA 93635
Wing Beat News-Southern California, Contact DFG-Region 5, 330 Golden
Shore, Suite 50, Long Beach, Ca 90802 or call (562) 590-5158

Valley Care Newsletter (free)-Ducks Unlimited, 3074 Gold Canal
Dr., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6116 (916)852-2000

National Forest maps are available for \$6 from U.S. Forest Service, 1323
Club Dr., Vallejo, CA 94592; or call (707) 562-8737
Mendocino NF, 420 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988 (530)
934-3316
Plumas NF, P.O. Box 11500, 159 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-2050
Plumas NF, 875 Mitchell Ave., Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 534-
6500
Tahoe NF, P.O. Box 6003, Hwy 49 and Coyote St., Nevada City,
CA 95959 (530) 265-4531
El Dorado NF Information Center, 3070 Camino Heights Drive,
Camino, CA 95709 (530) 644-6048
Stanislaus NF, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370 (209)
532-3671
Shasta-Trinity NF 2400 Washington Ave, Redding, CA 96001
(530) 246-5222
Six Rivers NF 507 E. Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707)442-1721
Lassen NF 55 S. Sacramento St., Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151
Modoc NF, 441 N. Main St., Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-5811

California Department of Park and Recreation
areas open for hunting:
Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, CDPR, 400 Glen Drive,
Oroville, CA 95966, (530) 538-2200/538-2219
Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres), CDPR, P.O. Box
3266, Auburn, CA 95604, (530) 885-4527/988-0205

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties open for hunting:
Black Butte Lake, USACE, 19225 Newville Road, Orland, CA
95963-8901, (530) 865-4781.
Englebright Lake, USACE, P.O. Box 6, Smartville, CA., 95977,
(530) 639-2342.
New Hogan Lake, USACE, 2713 Hogan Dam Blvd, Valley
Springs, CA 95252, (209) 772-1343.
Lake Mendocino, USACE, 1160 Lake Mendocino Dr, Ukiah, CA
95482 (707) 462-7581
Lake Sonoma, USACE, 3333 Skaggs Springs rd., Geyserville, CA
95441-9483 (707)433-9483 (Special hunts by reservation only)

Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
areas open for hunting:
New Melones Lake, Bureau of Reclamation, 6850 Studhorse Flat
Road, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 536-9094.
Department of Forestry property open for hunting;
Jackson Demonstration State Forest - 50,200 acres, 802 N. Main
St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437 (707)964-5674

Boggs Mtn. Demonstration State Forest -3,493 acres, P.O. Box
839 Cobb, CA 95426 (707) 928-4378

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maps are available from; BLM, 2800
Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825; or call (916) 978-4400
BLM field offices;
Bakersfield, 800 Truxton Ave, 93301 (805)861-4191
Susanville, 705 Hall St, 96130 (530) 257-5381
Redding, 355 Henstead Dr., 96001 (530)246-5325
Folsom, 63 Natoma St., 95630 (916) 985-4474
Riverside, 1695 Spruce, 92507 (714)351-6383
Carson City, NV, 1050 E. Williams St, 89701
Cow Mtn/Kings Range Recreation Areas/Cache Creek Public Access, 2550
N. State St., Ukiah 95482-3023

Dates To Remember

July

- 1 Rabbit Season Opens
- 9-13 Quail Unlimited Covey Kids Camp, Corse Gold. \$ (909) 767-3435
- 9-14 California Waterfowl Association Beginning Outdoor Sports Camp, Tehama County. \$ (916) 648-1406
- 10 Free Fishing Day. Free
- 16-21 California Waterfowl Association Advanced Outdoor Sports Camp, Tehama County. \$ (916) 648-1406
- 23-27 Quail Unlimited Covey Kids Camp, Merced County. \$ (909) 767-3455
- 29 Kids Fishing Day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

August

- 5 Archery/Falconry Tree Squirrel Opener
- 5 Kid's Day, San Francisco Bay NWR, County. Free (408) 262-5513
- 20 Klamath Salmon Festival, County. Free (707) 444-0433.
- 23-27 Butte County Fair and Sportsman's Expo, Butte County. \$ (530) 846-3626.

TBA Big Game Hunting Season Begins

September

- 1-15 Early Dove Season
 - 9 General Tree Squirrel Season Opener
- \$= admission fee

What's Ahead in the Fall WBN

Waterfowl Season Outlook

Pheasant Season Outlook

Youth Hunt Schedules

Special Upland Game Hunts

Wildlife Area Maps

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